

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sterilizing dental or orthodontic tools, which comprises:

a rigid non-folding transport rack having a pair of opposing side walls, a bottom and a back wall, all interconnected and forming a generally rectangular box of a pre-selected dimension which is open to the front and the top;

each of said opposing side walls having a top edge;

said opposing side walls, back walls and bottom each having a plurality of holes through which fluid and debris may pass;

a pair of horizontally disposed, horizontally extending, basically flat side flanges, each of said side flanges being attached to the tops at said top edge of one of said opposing side walls,
each of said opposing flanges having at least one hole therein, each of said holes defining a basically-planar open area where said basically-planar open area is basically parallel to said bottom, each of said side flanges being generally basically parallel to said bottom, said side flanges being generally basically perpendicular to said opposing side walls and basically perpendicular to said back wall;

at least one shelf which is horizontally disposed and permanently attached to at least the opposing side walls and said back wall; and

a plurality of cassettes adapted for placement upon said shelf and said bottom, each of said cassettes having a hinged top, and configured in size and shape to receive and hold dental or orthodontic tools.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 2 which further comprises a top handle having a horizontally oriented rail adapted to receive and vertically hold a plurality of dental or orthodontic pliers, said top handle having a pair of opposing and downwardly extending plates having upwardly extending pins configured to interfit underneath said opposing flanges with the upwardly extending engagement pins interfitting within said holes of said flanges.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 2 which further comprises a side handle having a pair of horizontally disposed insertion rails, each having an upwardly extending engagement pin, said insertion rails attached to a front rail, and at least one downwardly extending lever handle attached to said front rail, said insertion rails configured for insertion into said transport rack.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein each of said cassettes further comprise a pair of opposing latches for releasably securing said hinged top to said cassette, wherein opposing pressure must be simultaneously applied to each of said opposing latches to release said latches and said top.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7 which further comprises a plier rack pivotally mounted within said cassette and configured to lay within said cassette when said hinged top is closed, and to pivot to a generally upright position for holding pliers when said hinged top is open.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein said cassettes are each further configured dimensionally such that either one cassette or a combination of cassettes will completely fill said shelf.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein said plurality of cassettes are of various widths wherein the various widths, from a smallest width to a largest width, are dimensionally configured as whole integer multiples of the smallest width and where the largest width completely fills said shelf.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein said cassettes each further comprise:

a generally rectangular box having opposing side and end walls, a fixed generally flat bottom wall for resting upon a surface, and a hinged top cover, wherein each wall and the top cover are provided with a plurality of holes through which fluid and debris may pass; and

wherein said hinge is a double hinge configured to permit said top cover to lay flat upon the same surface which the bottom wall rests upon.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein said double hinge further comprises:

a first horizontally oriented hinge dividing one of said end walls or one of said side walls into upper and lower halves; and

a second hinge connecting the upper half of said wall to the top cover.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein said double hinge further comprises:

a first horizontally oriented hinge interconnected to one of said end walls or one of said side walls and said top cover; and

a second hinge oriented in juxtaposed relationship to said first hinge dividing said top cover into two interconnected pieces wherein the piece of the top cover attached to said end wall or side wall is of the same general dimensional size as the end wall or side wall to which it is attached to by means of said first hinge.

14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein said cassettes each further include means for supporting dental or orthodontic tools.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein said cassettes each further include indicia for identifying which dental or orthodontic tools may be contained within said cassettes.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein said indicia further comprises means for color coding said cassettes.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2 which further comprises an orthodontic band or dental tray for holding segregated a plurality of variously sized orthodontic bands or dental temporary crowns, said orthodontic band or dental tray comprising bottom plate, a pair of opposing side walls, a front wall, a back wall, and a plurality of interior divider walls, all made of a heat resistant, sterilizable material, and all attached to each other in a configuration to form a tray, open at the top and having a plurality of compartments for holding segregated said plurality of various sizes of orthodontic bands or dental temporary crowns, said bottom plate having a plurality of holes therein configured to drain each of said compartments of fluids, said orthodontic band tray configured dimensionally for insertion onto said shelf in said transport rack.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)